

# The Fragrant March

Sunday Morning, March 20, 2016

## Introduction:

In Roman culture a triumphant Roman general is celebrated for his victorious campaign. The conquering general is preceded into the city by the captives taken in war and is followed by his triumphant troops. As the conquering troops, parade through the city, they shout "Triumph!"

Today, we remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday.

### (Matthew 21:4 - 9)

4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them.

7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

"Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

We live in a continual triumphal march that began that day and goes on endlessly into eternity. The triumphal procession in which we march is headed by Jesus, the Conquerer.

### (Colossians 2:15)

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

## Main Point:

We are to be marching through life with the shout of "Triumph" on our lips, spreading the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.

### (II Corinthians 2: 14 - 16)

14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

15 For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

As the people of Jerusalem proclaimed Jesus as King, we must be marching along proclaiming Him the triumphant King and Conquerer.

Following Jesus requires us to be active.

We can't accept Him is our King and then stand idly by. We are to take steps to proclaim Him. We must cut branches, throw our clothing on the path. We must shout He is King! He deserves no less from us. His sacrifice, love and gifts are more than enough to cause us to cry out "Hosanna!" We should want everyone to know Him like we do. We are selfish when we hide our faith, our gift, our salvation. We should want others to have that same gift and blessing of spending eternity with Jesus.

Our lives (our words and actions) should be like a pleasing aroma.

We should be like fresh baked goods wafting their flavorful, heart warming, deliciousness through the air. People should be drawn to Jesus because we smell (good) like Jesus.

Our lives should be so much like Jesus that people are drawn to Him. Our lives should be spreading the knowledge of Jesus.

Unfortunately, sometimes that aroma is unpleasing to those receiving it.

### **(II Corinthians 2: 16)**

To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

Have you ever smelled death. It is odious. It is more than unpleasant. Sometimes the knowledge of Christ becomes unpleasant for those who learn of Him through you. *(more on next page)*

It convicts and reminds the person of their sins. Instead of dealing with it, they run away. We can not let the negative response deter us or stop us from marching on proclaiming our triumphant King and Conquerer to others.

We must continue to make sure our lives (our words and actions), march through this world spreading the aroma of the knowledge of our King.

Our lives become like the sacrifices that sent the pleasing aroma up to God.

### **(Numbers 28: 4 – 6)**

4 The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, the other lamb you shall offer in the evening,  
5 and one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering mixed with one-fourth of a hin of pressed oil.  
6 It is a regular burnt offering which was ordained at Mount Sinai for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the Lord.

God ordained from the beginning that man offer up sweet aromas to Him. He loves aromas that are pleasing to the senses.

An aroma identifies its source. You smell Rose in the air, you know there are roses nearby. You smell skunk and you know a skunk has been in the area.

Can others identify the source of your aroma? \_\_\_\_\_

Paul begs us in  
(Romans 12:1)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Like the lamb and grain offering was required and expected of the people of Israel, so giving of our lives is expected. It is our reasonable service. God expects no less of us. Our lives lived God's way becomes a pleasing aroma to Him and to those who witness our lives. That means we sacrifice our personal comfort and preferences when God calls us to. It means we obey His Word. It means we sacrifice our time, our needs, our personal goals and pleasures when He calls us to, or they contradict His Word. We live His life, not our own. We give up bad habits and sins. We pray, read, study, give and serve. Our lives become His lives and we become a pleasing aroma that will naturally spread the knowledge of Him to others.

As people marched along following their Kings and Generals, we must follow Christ our King as His dear children. Children trust and love without hesitation. We too must trust and love Him and march displaying that love. As a result we will put off that pleasing aroma.

(Ephesians 5: 1 – 2)

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Christ our King and Conquerer is our example. As He sacrificed His life for us while He walked on this Earth and in His death on the cross, we too, must offer up our life & become that sweet smelling aroma.

**Call to Action:**

Does your life give off a sweet smelling aroma to God and others? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you spread the knowledge of Christ your King to others through your life (words & actions)? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you marching actively and following Christ the triumphant Conquerer like a child follows their parents? \_\_\_\_\_

Take steps to march after our triumphant Christ, by sacrificing your time to:

- ✚ Learn of Him through reading and studying His Word each day. So you have more knowledge to share with others about Him.
- ✚ Serve God by serving others. So you can share the knowledge of His love by your actions.
- ✚ Share your knowledge of Him with others through words about Him and what He has done for you as your Triumphant King!